

WE CLAIM:

1. An earthquake-immune exterior wall system for use with a multi-story building structure, the wall system comprising:

5 a plurality of anchor means for connecting the wall system to the building structure, each said anchor means adapted to being fixedly connected to the building structure for a single story of the multi-story building structure;

a plurality of first elongate members;

connecting means for connecting each first elongate member directly to only one of said anchor means so that each first elongate member is fixedly connected to a single
10 story of the multi-story building structure;

a plurality of second elongate members connected between adjacent pairs of first elongate members, said first and second elongate members collectively defining panel hanging areas; and

a plurality of exterior cladding panels secured to said first and second
15 elongate members at the panel hanging areas to define the exterior wall system of the building structure.

2. The wall system of claim 1 wherein the anchor means comprise steel anchor frames.

3. The wall system of claim 2 wherein each said anchor frame is
20 rectangular in configuration.

4. The wall system of claim 3 wherein each said anchor frame is constructed of tubular steel.

5. The wall system of claim 4 wherein the connecting means comprises anchor brackets connecting each first elongate member to upper and lower horizontal members of the anchor frames.

6. The wall system of claim 1 wherein said first elongate members comprise vertical mullions.

7. The wall system of claim 1 wherein said second elongate members comprise horizontal mullions.

10 8. The wall system of claim 1 further comprising flexible means for flexibly connecting first and second elongate members connected to any one story to first and second elongate members connected to the story immediately above the one story.

9. The wall system of claim 8 wherein the flexible means comprises a flexible gasket.

15 10. The wall system of claim 9 wherein the gasket is of polymeric material.

11. An earthquake-immune exterior curtain wall system for use with a multi-story building structure, the wall system comprising:

a plurality of anchor means for connecting the wall system to the building structure, each said anchor means adapted to being fixedly connected to the building structure for a single story of the multi-story building structure;

a plurality of vertical mullions;

connecting means for connecting each vertical mullion directly to only one of said anchor means so that each vertical mullion is fixedly connected to a single story of the multi-story building structure;

a plurality of horizontal mullions connected between adjacent pairs of vertical mullions, said vertical and horizontal mullions collectively defining panel frames for each story; and

a plurality of exterior cladding panels secured to said vertical and horizontal mullions at the panel frames to define the exterior curtain wall system of the building structure.

12. The wall system of claim 11 wherein the anchor means comprise steel anchor frames.

13. The wall system of claim 12 wherein each said anchor frame is rectangular in configuration.

14. The wall system of claim 13 wherein each said anchor frame is constructed of tubular steel.

15. The wall system of claim 14 wherein the connecting means comprises anchor brackets connecting each first elongate member to upper and lower horizontal members of the anchor frames.

16. The wall system of claim 11 further comprising flexible means for flexibly connecting upper horizontal mullions of each said panel frame connected to any one story to lower horizontal mullions of each said panel frame connected to the story immediately above the one story.

17. The wall system of claim 16 wherein the flexible means comprises a flexible gasket.

18. The wall system of claim 17 wherein the gasket is of polymeric material.

19. The wall system of claim 16 wherein each panel frame further includes intermediate horizontal mullions to define plural subframes and an exterior cladding panel is secured at each said subframe.